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No. 104

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
June 20, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 9:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on a crisis that affects communities across our Nation. That crisis is that of missing and murdered indigenous women.

Native American and Alaska Native women throughout the country face a murder rate 10 times that of the national average, with 84 percent experi-

encing some kind of violence in their lifetime.

In my home State of Washington, Native Americans make up about 2 percent of the population, but a recent report by the Washington State Patrol shows that indigenous women account for 7 percent of the State's reported missing women.

My congressional district in Central Washington sits at the epicenter of this crisis. In the past 5 years alone, seven women have been murdered or have gone missing on or near the Yakama Nation reservation.

These women are not just statistics in a database. They are mothers, daughters, sisters, neighbors, and friends. There are those who are missing, like 25-year-old Alillia Minthorn, or Lala as her friends called her, who was last seen in Toppenish and has been missing since May 5; 31-year-old Rosenda Strong, who was last seen in Wapato on October 2 of last year; 34-year-old Freda Gun, who went missing in Kennewick in 2016; and 18-year-old Rosalita Longee, who was last seen in Wapato in 2015.

Then there are the unsolved murders, including 23-year-old Linda Dave, whose remains were found in Toppenish in February of 2017; 31-year-old Minnie Andy, who was assaulted by an unknown assailant in Wapato, and later died of her injuries in July of 2017; and 23-year-old Destiny Lloyd, who was reported missing on Christmas Day 2017, only to be found days later, murdered, on the side of the road.

To reiterate, Madam Speaker, these are just seven cases from the last 5 years. There are currently 71 open cases like this in Washington State; 31 of them occurring on or near the Yakama Nation reservation.

The local community has been working to tackle this crisis. Tribal and community leaders have held multiple rallies and community forums to raise awareness and demand action.

The diligent reporting of the Yakima Herald-Republic has highlighted the community response and activism on the ground, creating an online hub to list open cases involving missing and murdered Yakama Nation women and providing resources for the community to report disappearances.

Recently passed State laws, spearheaded by State Representative Gina Mosbrucker in Olympia, have enhanced data collection and improved communication between Tribal leaders and various State agencies.

I absolutely applaud these efforts, and I am inspired by the progress being made at the local and State level; however, this is a national problem that requires a national response. That is why I, along with my colleagues, Representatives TORRES and HAALAND, introduced Savanna's Act.

Our legislation aims to address and bring awareness to the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women at the Federal level by improving coordination between Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies. The bill would develop guidelines and best practices for Tribes and law enforcement agencies across the country to enhance the reporting and record-keeping of crimes against indigenous women and improve communication between law enforcement and families of victims.

Now, this bill may sound familiar. Last Congress, the Senate unanimously passed a version of Savanna's Act that stalled in the House. Representatives TORRES, HAALAND, and I worked with Tribes, advocacy groups, law enforcement, and Senators MURKOWSKI and CORTEZ MASTO to improve the legislation and introduce a bill that can—and should—be signed into law.

The bill is named in honor of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, a 22-year-old member of the Spirit Lake Tribe, pregnant with her first child, who was murdered in August of 2017. Her murder

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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